



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

January 20, 2022

MR. NOAH SCHEER



FOIPA Request No.: 1508451-000
Subject: HARRISON, CHARLES YALE

Dear Mr. Scheer:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request. The FBI has completed its search for records responsive to your request. Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request as well as the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

Material consisting of three pages has been reviewed pursuant to Title 5, U.S. Code § 552/552a, and this material is being released to you in its entirety with no excisions of information.

A record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). If you wish to review these records, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NARA, Special Access and FOIA, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file numbers 100-HQ-351310 Serial HQ24-P31A; 102-HQ-4 Serial 83; 100-HQ-94121 Serial 99; 100-HQ-19719 Serial 7; 100-HQ-5557 Serial 64X; 105-HQ-43296 Serial 11 ENCL pg. 13; 62-HQ-43818-A Serial Washington Daily News, 12-13-50; 61-HQ-6447 Serial 3, and 62-HQ-23170 Serial 159 pg. 318.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us." The FOIPA Request number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: <https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. G. Seidel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

Enclosure

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) **Intelligence Records.** To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records.
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative “FBI file.” An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1508451-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 2
Page 4 ~ Duplicate;
Page 5 ~ Duplicate;

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to be in Curran's handwriting, which were obtained from former officers of the N. M. U. after a split last year.

Letter By Curran.

In the Socialist New Leader tomorrow Mr. Harrison will use them to support his charge that Mr. Curran is a link in a chain of circumstances that prove that the United States merchant marine, our second line of naval defense, is at the mercy of the Communist International.

Mr. Harrison, who wrote *Generals Die in Bed* and other books, was consultant to the New York Housing Authority until two years ago. Now he is a columnist in the New Leader and a public relations adviser.

Mr. Curran has frequently denied that the N. M. U. is Communist controlled or that he is a Communist.

In an attempted refutation Mr. Harrison produces an original letter which, he says, bears Mr. Curran's signature and which admits that the Communists "have about got control" of the new maritime union.

The letter is on a letterhead of the Seamen's Defense Committee, forerunner of the N. M. U. It is dated Oct. 8, 1936, and is addressed to "Peter Innes, West Coast Representative, Seamen's Defense Committee." At the bottom there is added in the handwriting of the signature: "P. S. No seal Written at Home."

One of the roughly-typed paragraphs follows:

"I am going to see that you get a money sent to you if it is at all possible. I know what you are up against there on the coast and the firemen here now with the exception of Jerry King are all piecards. They have credentials from Hunter and they think they are big shots now the C. Ps. have about got control of the outfit now with Tommy Ray director of operations here in New York but things are not bad on the whole."

'Strategic Position.'

According to Mr. Harrison, Mr. Ray is one of the Communist maritime leaders and a power behind the N. M. U.

Shortly after this letter was written, Mr. Harrison alleges, Mr. Curran joined the party. The receipt, numbered 52171-B and dated 10/14/36, acknowledges the payment of \$14.20, of which \$3 is allotted to the "N. M. U. Fund." This referred to the National Maritime Unity Fund and not the National Maritime Union, which came into existence under that name a year later.

The quotation of the statement allegedly made by Mr. Curran to the closed membership meeting follows:

"I wonder if the brothers realize that this Union is the target of all big industrial, lobbying, and ship-owning interests. I wonder if the membership realizes the strategic position in which our Union is placed. That is the reason that every politician in Washington and every big manufacturer in this country is sniping at this Union. Because they know that some day this Union will be in a position to say where and when they will ship arms and ammunition from this country."

Others Listed.

Mr. Harrison alleges that six other N. M. U. leaders are Communists:

1. Frederick N. (Blackie) Myers, field organizer for the union. Mr. Harrison alleges Myers is a graduate of the Marine Training School, conducted by the waterfront section of the Communist party and

husband of Beth McHenry, Daily Worker staff columnist.

2. Hays Jones, associate editor of The Pilot, N. M. U. organ. Mr. Harrison points to a pamphlet by Mr. Jones called *In a Soviet America*. Seamen and Longshoremen Under the Red Flag," which, among other things, predicts:

"The Soviet American seaman will find his messroom a large, well-decorated room with one corner divided off—a Red corner for entertainment, study and recreational reading."

3. Ferdinand C. Smith, secretary of the union, and Mr. Harrison alleges, another graduate of the party's Marine Workers School.

4. Jack Lawrenson, national field organizer.

5. Al Lannon who, according to Mr. Harrison, is known on Communist Party rolls as Al Vetere and was a student in military tactics courses at the Lenin School in Moscow.

6. Murray Stein, recently-elected treasurer, and, according to Mr. Harrison, honor graduate of the Marine Workers School.

Girl Recruiters.

Mr. Harrison quotes from another letter, allegedly written by Walter Carney, whom he describes as Mr. Curran's bodyguard at one time:

"We all live together and the rest of the gang are on the educational squad. They are going to form a reception committee for the crew of the S. S. Washington when she arrives tomorrow. You know the room rent is due and they expect the . . . s on the Washington to contribute. Hi, ho!"

In another letter to a comrade in Boston, according to Harrison, a union member wrote: "In New York we are very short of good, attractive front. Then, referring to three young women to be used to recruit seamen for the party, the writer adds: "These three would be excellent for this purpose if no other, and there is no reason to presume that they would not become solid comrades in any other way."

Writer Says Letters Prove Curran a Red

Harrison Offers Alleged Receipt For Party Dues

Documents were offered today by Charles Yale Harrison, author, which, he says, prove that Joseph Curran, president of the National Maritime Union, was a member of the Communist party.

They also show, Mr. Harrison contends, that on May 4, 1938, before a closed membership of the union, Mr. Curran boasted:

"Some day this union will be in a position to say when and where they (the government and industry) will ship arms and ammunition from this country."

Called Forgeries.

A spokesman for Mr. Curran at union headquarters replied that any documents tending to connect the union head with the Communist party were "outright forgeries." He denied the 1938 statement constituted any kind of a threat, adding that the N. M. U. "has reiterated its loyalty to the government over and over."

"We recently eliminated a lot of ship owners' spies from the union," he said. "Obviously we didn't get all of them. They are the source of the documents."

Mr. Curran was elected president last night of the Greater New York Industrial Union Council of the C. I. O., organized as a rival to the A. F. L. Central Trades and Labor Council.

Receipt for Dues.

The council claims to represent 118 local unions with a membership of 350,000 to 400,000. One powerful C. I. O. union, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, refused to join, however, claiming the council would be an obstacle to peace with the A. F. L.

One of the documents offered was a receipt of the Communist party of New York issued in the name of Mr. Curran and crediting him with three months party dues (\$7.20) as well as \$7 in other contributions, including \$2 for the Red Fighting Front.

At his apartment at 33 E. 22nd St. Mr. Harrison produced a trunkload of documents, many alleged

Cited in Communism Charge

No. 52171 B

C.P. OF U.S. & POSSESS

Rec'd from Joe. Curran - 10/14/1936

Dues for <u>3</u> Mos. No. <u>1437-020</u>	7	20
<u>WATER FRONT COUNCIL</u>	1	00
<u>W.M.D. FUND</u>	2	00
<u>A.F. FUND</u>	1	00
TOTAL	11	20

Sec. A.H.V. Chamber

This copy of a receipt allegedly issued by the Communist party of New York to Joseph Curran, National Maritime Union head, shows payment of party dues and other contributions including the Red Fighting Front.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-25-90 BY 2050/100

Clipping from
NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM

DATE: JUL 25 1940

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

INDEXED

NOT RECORDED

98-752-12X

KRM:CJ

61-7550

August 12, 1940

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-18-96 BY 3350/cc

RE: NATIONAL MARITIME
UNION

Dear Sir:

With reference to my desires for a speedy investigation of the above-entitled matter, I wish you would advise me by return mail the identities of the two Agents who have been assigned to complete the investigation of this matter and the approximate time which will be required to bring this case to a satisfactory conclusion.

For your information and assistance in this matter, I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an article taken from the New York World-Telegram for July 25, 1940, concerning disclosures made by Charles Yale Harrison with reference to the National Maritime Union. Since it appears that this individual has considerable information, it is my desire that you arrange to have him interviewed.

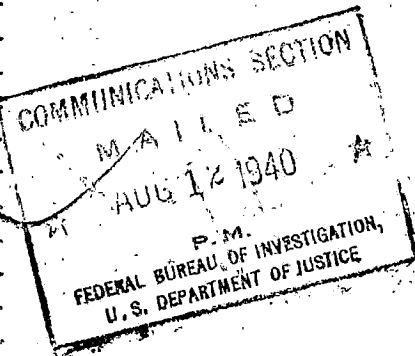
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Nathan _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____



RECORDED

